To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Gordon Dunsire, Chair, JSC

Subject: Terms of reference for the JSC Fictitious Entities Working Group

General terms of reference

The JSC Fictitious Entities Working Group will conduct its business within the general terms of reference for JSC Working Groups.

Background

The JSC develops *RDA: Resource Description and Access* for international use with the range of encoding schemes typically employed in library and related applications. The underlying domain model is based on the FRBR, FRAD, and FRSAD conceptual models.

Metadata produced using *RDA* must be well-formed and able to meet the needs of applications operating in a variety of implementation scenarios. The number of *RDA* applications is increasing as a result of the success of *RDA*, requiring the JSC to further develop the substructures between the underlying models and functional requirements of *RDA*.

The FRBR Review Group's Consolidation Editorial Group (CEG) is now in the final stages of its work on consolidating the three conceptual models. The JSC anticipates the consolidated model to treat the names of fictitious agents as name entities associated with the persons, families, and corporate bodies that are responsible in the real world for works, expressions, manifestations, and items. This will diverge from the current *RDA* treatment of the Person entity, which includes fictitious and legendary persons in its scope. The difference is significant, and moves the focus from the Person entity to a new Name (or Nomen) entity.

The JSC expects to develop *RDA* to accommodate such a Name entity, and has assigned a related task to the JSC Technical Working Group to investigate the development of *RDA* models for authority data.

The JSC wishes to improve the treatment of fictitious persons in *RDA* without diverging from the anticipated model. The JSC also wishes to extend *RDA* to cover fictitious families and corporate bodies, and to determine if the scope of *RDA* should include fictitious works, places, and other entities.

The JSC decided at its meeting in November 2014 to implement a Working Group to carry out tasks related to these issues.

Charge (duties and responsibilities)

The Group is charged to:

- Assist the JSC in developing *RDA* for application to fictitious entities.